(b) whether Government shares this perception and if so, the steps Government have taken/propose to take to educate the public about this silent killer disease; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

(SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The article in Hindustan Times dated 21.5.2003 is reported to be based on the guidelines issued by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Bank Institute, USA in their Seventh Report of Joint National Committee on Prevention, Detection,Evaluation and Treatment of High Blood Pressure which suggests that individuals with the Systolic Blood Pressure of 120-139 mmHg or a Diastolic blood pressure of 80-89 mmhg should be considered as prehypertensives and require health promoting lifestyle modifications to prevent Cardiovascular Disease (CVD). According to the Experts in the field no drug treatment is required for prehypertensives unless there are Compelling reasons to treat with drugs like patients with diabetes or chronic kidney disease. As CVD is lifestyle related disease, the Government is spreading health messages to increase Public Health Awareness about heart diseases and healthy living practices.

**Assistance to NGOs in North-Eastern Region**

2062. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the list of NGOs granted assistance in the North-Eastern Region during the last year and till date, scheme-wise and State-wise;

(b) the list of pending proposals; and

(c) by when, the grants are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of trie House.